

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 /104 W

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P 131330Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7641

AMEMBASSY CARIO PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NDJAMENA 2749

DEPT FOR AF/W AMBASSADOR BRADFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS PBOR CD LY

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW CHAD SECURITY AS IMPROVED

SUMMARY: CHRG REVIEWED LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION WITH  
FRENCH AMBASSADOR DALLIER ON JULY 12. FOLLOWING  
IS A RESUME

OF DALLIERS COMMENTS ON WHAT HE SEES AS A GENERALLY  
IMPROVED SITUATION FOR THE GOC.

1. IN A LONG CONVERSATION JULY 12, FRENCH AMBASSADOR  
LOUIS EUGENE DALLIER REVIEWED WITHCHARGE HS CURRENT  
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VIEWS ON BOTH THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN  
CHAD. OVERALL, DALLIER FELT THATTHE GOC WAS IN THE  
STRONGEST POSITION IT HAD BEEN FOR SOME TIME. ACCORDING  
TO FRENCH ASSESSMENT, FROLINAT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AT  
A LOW POINT-- WITH THE INITIATIVE HAVING PASSED  
TO THE CHADIAN NATIONAL ARMY. NEW INTELLIGENCE ESTIATES BY  
THE FRENCH HVE PLACED GOUKOUNI LOSSES AT APPROXIMATELY

1,000 DEAD OR WOUNDED IN THIS PAST YEARS SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS. THESE CASUALTIES NOT ONLY HAVE CAUSED FROLINAT TO WITHDRAW SOME OF ITS COMBAT UNITS FOR REGROUPING, BT ALSO HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF DEFECTIONS OT THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. IN FACT, A SIZABLE GROUP OF STUDENTS IS BEING RETURNED TODAY FROM ADRE TO ABEICHE TO REJOIN THEIR FAMILIES.

2.A PROVINCE BY PROVINCE RUN DOWN OF THE LOCAL SITUATION MADE JOINTLY BY FRENCH AND CHADIAN INTELLIGENCE SHOWS:

GUERA--GOOD

OUADDI-- MUCH IMPORVED WITH NUMEROUS FROLINAT DEFECTIONS AD REASSERTED SUUPORT BY LOCAL LEADERS, INCLUDING NEW SULTAN.

BATHA-- BETTER THANBEFORE BUT FROLINAT TROOPS STILL IN AREA SO OCA OFFICIALS REMAIN NEUTRAL.

SALAMAT-- BAD BUT THIS IS A RESULT OF BANDITRY RATHER THAN ORGAINZED FROLINT POLITICAL RESISTANCE. SALLIER FEELS THE SITUATION WILL NOT BE DEALT WITH FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS.

KANEM- MUCH BETTER. RUMORED TROOP MOVEMENTS FROM FAYA TOWARD MAO HAVE NOT BEEN SUBSTANTITED BY INTENSIFIED DAILY AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE. NEW ASSESSMENT PLACES FROLINT GARRISON AT SALAL AT 200-250 MEN. THIS CONTRASTS WITH EARLIER FFRENCH ESTIMATE THAT IT HAD BEEN REINFORCED  
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TO MORE THAT 400.

B.E.T-- STABLE WITH NEW MATERIAL, INCLUDING TRACKED VEHICLES (PROBABLY ANTI-AIRCRAFT OR RADAR) HAVING ARRIVED AT FAYA. THIS MATERIAL IS THROUGH TO BE OF DEFENSIVE NATURE BECAUSE FROLINAT FEARS ATTACKS ON FAYA, FADA AND BARDAL.

3. WITH REGARD TO LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT, AMBASSADOR DALLIER STATES THT, WHILE THRE UNDOUBLTEDLY ARE SMALL NUMBERS OF LIBYANS PRESENT TO SERVE AS TECHNICAL ADVISORS OR TO HELP FORLINAT WITH ITS FEW ITEMS OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY, NO LIBYAN COMBATANTS OR SIZABLE NUMBER OF TROOPS ARE THOUGHT TO BE IN THE COUNTRY. JALLOUD HAS JUST LEFT PARIS AFTER NEW DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD, WHERE HE APPARENTLY RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT HE SUPPORTED COMPROMISE GAME PLAN WORKED OUT DURING HIS PREVIOUS VISIT. JALLOUD CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD AGAIN ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE FROLINAT TO GO ALONG WITH A SCHEDULE CALLING FOR PHASED FRENCH TROOP WITHDRAWAL ONLY AFTER OTHER ITMES OF THE GOC-FROLINAT RECONCILIATION WERE WORKED OUT. DALLIER EXPALINED THAT THE FRENCH HAD MADE IT CLEAR THEY MAINTAINED THEIR

ORIGINAL POSITION AND THAT THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE RESULT OF THE TRIPOLI MEETING SINCE THEY HAD THOUGHT JALLOUDES AGREEMENT MEANT LIBYA WOULD GET FROLINAT COOPERATION. PERSONALLY, DALLIER DID NOT BELIEVE JALLOUDES SINCERITY AND HE SUSPECTED HIS VIEWS ON LIBYAN INTENTIONS WERE SHARED BY THE GOF. DALLIER FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY MASSING OF LIBYAN TROOPS OR WEAPONRY IN THE SOUTH OF THAT COUNTRY, BUT HE WAS SURE FROM BRUEGUET RECONNAISSANCE THAT NO IMPORTANT MOVEMENTS WERE TAKING PLACE WITHIN CHAD.

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P 131330Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7642

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

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DEPT FOR AF/W AMBASSADOR BRADFORD

4. SEVERAL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MILITARY SITUATION ALSO APPEARED BETTER TO THE FRENCH. THEIR PATROLS WERE MOVING FREELY FROM ABECHÉ, ADRE, MAO AND MOUSSORO TO SUCH PLACES AS AM ZOUAR, OUM CHALOUBA AND ERIBA. THE LOCAL POPULACE SEEM TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE THAN BEFORE AND THE SPIRIT OF LOCAL OFFICIALS WAS BETTER. MOREOVER THE CHADIAN ARMY HAS IMPROVED. NEW

RECRUITS WERE BEING FOUND AND TRAINED AND THE ATTITUDE AND FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE MEN HAD INCREASED. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT THE TROOPS WHO PANICKED AND RAN DURING THE ASSAULT ON A THIRD ARMY HELD ISLAND IN LAKE CHAD, AMBASSADOR DALLIER REPLIED IT WAS JUST MATTER OF BAD CONFIDENTIAL

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LUCK. ABOUT 30 CHADIAN TROOPS WERE HELIPORTED IN WITH FRENCH ADVISORS TO CONFRONT WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE A UNIT OF ABOUT 30. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ENTIRE 150 MAN THIRD ARMY WAS PRESENT FOR THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF A NEW FIELD COMMANDER. WHEN THE NATIONAL ARMY TROOPS WERE FACED WITH FIVE TO ONE ODDS THEY PANICKED.

5. THINGS LOOKED BETTER ON THE POLITICAL SIDE AS WELL, ACCORDING TO DALLIER. HISEN HABRE RETURNS TO NDJAMENA LATER IN THE DAY AND NOW APPARENTLY FELT THAT HE COULD QUOTE DETACH UNQUOTE ABDULAH ADAM FROM FROLINAT LEADERSHIP. OTHER REBEL LEADERS WHO HAD RALLIED WERE NOW AWAITING ONLY HABRE'S INITIATIVE, SINCE BASICALLY THEY HAD ARRIVED AT TERMS WITH GOC.

6. THE CSM WAS IN A STRONGER POSITION THAN AT ANY RECENT TIME GIVEN THE QUIET MILITARY SITUATION, FROLINAT DEFECTIONS AND RENEWED AVOWALS OF SUPPORT FROM REGIONAL LEADERS. HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL WAS COMPLETELY DISCREDITED AMONG ALL ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY AS AN ORGANIZATION TO KEEP POWER. THE FRENCH WERE PUSHING MALLOUM TO ACT NOW TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. DALLIER IS INFORMING THE PRESIDENT THAT THE FRENCH WILL NOT STAY FOREVER AND THE GOC MUST ACT DECISIVELY WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS TO HAVE THE CSM STEP DOWN AND A NEW GOVERNMENT TAKE OVER. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR FRANCE TO DROP THE GOC BUT HE WAS NOT TELLING MALLOUM THIS SO AS TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON.

7. IN AN ASIDE, AMBASSADOR DALLIER REFLECTED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN MAURITANIA APPEARED TO BE A GOOD THING CONFIDENTIAL

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AS FAR AS BOTH MAURITANIA AND FRANCE WERE CONCERNED. IT WAS A CONSERVATIVE MILITARY REGIME WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH MOROCCO, PROBABLY WOULD TAKE STEPS TO END THAT PORTION OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

EXACERBATED BY THE COUNTRY'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FRANC ZONE, AND WOULD PROMOTE NATIONAL UNITY BY DISCONTINUING SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME PAN ISLAMIC ACTIONS SUCH AS INSTITUTING SHARIYA LAW WHICH HAD ALIENATED THE SOUTH.

COMMENT-- AMBASSADOR DALLIER'S ASSESSMENT MAY BE A LITTLE EUPHORIC BUT IT SEEMS BASED ON SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO BE ACCURATE IN THE SHORT TERM. THE BIG UNKNOWN IN THE EQUATION CONTINUES TO BE LIBYAN INTENTIONS AND THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THE KIATUS WILL CONTINUE LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE THE GOC THE BREATHING ROOM NECESSARY TO REGROUP POLITICALLY. IN THE LONG RUN, HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL ANY NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS AND THESE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANIFESTED THROUGH REBELLION OR ACTIVE PROTEST. DALSIMER

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